

Abstract of the Disclosure

Miniature defibrillators and cardioverters detect abnormal heart rhythms and automatically apply electrical therapy to restore normal heart function. Therapy decisions are typically based on the time between successive beats of various chambers of the heart, such as the left atrium and left ventricle. To prevent confusing a left ventricle beat for a left atrium beat, some devices use cross-chamber blanking, a technique which disables sensing of atrial beats for a certain time period after sensing. Conventionally, these devices lack any mechanism for adjusting length of this period. Accordingly, the inventor devised a implantable device including a mechanism for adjusting this time period. This mechanism ultimately allows tailoring of the cross-chamber blanking period to fit the needs of individual patients.

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